Chaddsford Delaware Co. Penna
Jan. 21st 1854

CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dr Torrey

Dear Sir

Confined in a previous intention by a late request of Dr Gray, I enclose you a specimen of a new Scirpus, which I collected in Maryland, and which I hope may prove interesting to you.

Will you be kind enough to give me your opinion of the Chestnut Oaks of Gray's Man.; as to whether they should not be rearranged as Michaux left them? I have an impression that my friend, Mr Bebb, informed me that this was your opinion.

Dr Gray kindly sent me his photograph a few days since. Is it making too bold to ask for yours to place by it? It would afford me sincere gratifi-

fication to have it. The names of Torrey & Gray are so inseparably connected in North American Botany, that the picture of one seem incomplete without the other.

Very Respectfully, Yours,

Wm. H. Canby

BARNARD COLLEGE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Wilmington Del. June 1st 1869

Dr. John Torr, N.Y.

Dear Sir,

I send by today's mail a small package containing two specimens of what I suppose can only be the Oreophila of Nuttall & Pachystima Raf. This plant I found first in Aug. 1858 on the cliffs of New River, Va. at the "New River White Sulphur Springs", but without flower or fruit. Some time after I showed the plant to yourself and also to Dr. Gray but the cursory inspection did not enable you to name it. I have ever since had a desire to collect it at another season, which was gratified about a week since. To my delight I found it in flower, and supposed on inspecting it it must belong to Celastraceae, and, judging from the appearance of the specimens of the above-named genus I had seen in Hall & Harbour's Coll.,

that it must be also very near if not identical with the species. ~~Sam~~ An inspection and comparison since my return home (yesterday) seems to me to confirm this idea. Indeed I can see no difference except in the narrower and smaller leaves. My Western specimens are not however in flower, while I saw but a single young fruit on the Va. ones. The habit too is somewhat different from Mr. Nuttall's description, as it is a small procumbent plant hardly ever rising more than an inch or two from the ground. But to offset this is the fact that the plants I saw were comparatively few in number, (not more than fifty altogether), and had evidently been much nibbled at by sheep.

If it is identical with the Western plant it seems to me to open up an interesting question, as to whether these few plants are all that remain of the many that might once have been ~~an~~

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~~common plant~~ found here, or whether it is a new locality of recent origin. As the plants seem to me to be fewer and smaller than when I saw them nearly 11 years ago, I incline to the former view.

The following are my notes made at the time of collection:

"Pachystima? – Procumbent, leaves revolute, serrulate from the middle to the obtuse tip, short petioled, evergreen; branches quadrangular; root very long & tough yellow; peduncles axillary from near the termination of last year's branches 1, 2 to 3 flowered; pedicels two-bracted near the base, bracts small, acute; sepals 4 orbicular obtuse; petals 4 or often very caducous or wanting, ovate-lanceolate in outline, obtuse soon revolute outwards and withering or falling, inserted just under the disc. Stamens alternate with the petals inserted on the disc, filaments short, anthers roundish; style short, stigma capitate."

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I have had no opportunity of

examining the plant with a microscope.

If not too much trouble will you be kind enough to give me your opinion of the plant and oblige,

Yours very Respectfully,

Wm M. Canby

CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

I have never seen Sir Wm Hooker's figure & description, and have no access to Fl. Bor. Am. without going to Phila. I enclose the plants in a paper on some experiments I made on Dionaea.

Wilmington, Del, June 8th 1869

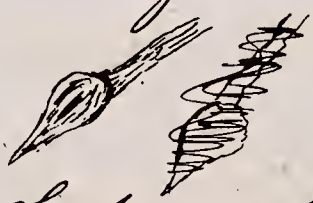
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dr. Torrey.

My Dear Sir,

Thanks for your letter of 2nd inst. I have delayed an answer until I could go to Phila., and look up specimens and descriptions of Pachystima myrsinites in the Academy. In the Herb. there, I find Fendler's New Mexican specimen, the original one of Nuttall with his label (Crophila), and those of Parry, and Hall and Harbour. All these specimens agree well with each other, and with the figure in Hooker's Fl. Bor. Am. The New Mexican is a larger one than the rest and has the appearance of having been taken from a more diffuse and larger shrub. ~~than the rest~~. Nuttall's is from

a more densely branched specimen than the rest. But I think they all show that they have been slips taken from an upright and branched shrub. The lower end of the New Mexican specimen is quite woody, and has evidently been taken from the side of a larger branch or stem being in shape somewhat thus.



In all these specimens the broad leaves, the short erect pedicels, which are axillary almost all along the last years wood, and the other distinctions, are as given in your letter. I am now inclined to think my plant is a distinct species though a nearly allied one. But even if only a variety of P. myosuroides it is a very marked one, and I think worthy of a description. As to names there are a

number which present themselves at once as appropriate to the plant or as distinguishing it from P. myrsinites: – minor – depressa – prostrata – recurva &c.. But if you are willing I leave the whole matter in your hands, to do as you think best about it after hearing from Parry &c. I am surprised you have no fruit on your specimens; – almost every one I have seen has some in a more or less forward state. Enclosed is a slip from one of Hall's specimens.

Accept my sincere thanks for your very kind invitation to come and see you and botanize on Long Island. I am sure nothing could give me greater pleasure. At present however I am bound at home, having just returned from a five months

absence in Florida and other Southern states. My affairs require attention and I have a large collection of plants to get in order. But sometime when passing through N.Y. I will give myself the pleasure of calling to see you. By the way, right on the top of Stone Mt. Ga., in the very shallow depressions in the bare granite, where one would think a week's dry weather would dry up the water, I found your Amphianthus, (I must put in a specimen) and an Isoetes! When I get my specimens sorted I will, with your permission, select a suite of such as I ~~[illegible]~~ may suppose would be interesting from any cause and send them to you.

Very Respectfully & Truly Yrs,

Wm M. Canby

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